Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" Have the Government taken legal opinion that they are not civilly liable for the diversion of these funds ?"

Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder :—" My question has not yet been answered, Sir."

The hon. the President :—" As regards the question put by the hon. Member, Mr. Vellingiri Gounder, I presume that it was not answered because it was a suggestion for action."

Mr. V. C. Vellingiri Gounder :—" My point was whether the hon. the Minister would consider the desirability of modifying the section."

The hon. the President :—" A question in that form is a suggestion for action."

Civil Justice.

Appointment of non-gazetted officers to the Provincial Judicial Service.

411 Q.—Mr. J. D. Samuel : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state if his attention was drawn to a Resolution of the 3rd Provincial Conference of non-gazetted officers held in 1921 praying that one-third of the vacancies in the Provincial Judicial Service may be reserved for duly qualified non-gazetted Officers in the Judicial department ?

A.—The Resolution has since been perused but such recruitment is prohibited under the orders of the Government of India.

1 p.m.

Mr. J. D. Samuel :—" Will the Government consider the prayer of the non-gazetted officers ? "

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" I shall consider it."

Irrigation.

Water-rate for the lands irrigated by the Periyar river.

412 Q.—Mr. A. Chidambara Nadar : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(1) whether it is a fact that the water-rate for the lands irrigated by the Periyar river in the Madura district is going to be doubled ;

(2) whether any Government Order has been issued with regard to the matter ; and

(3) if so, what the reason is for enhancing the assessment ?

A.—(1) & (2) No. The hon. Member is referred to notifications published at page 1142, Part I of *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 9th October 1923, and page 1397, Part I of *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 11th December 1923. These notifications refer to a small area of about 1,300 acres of land in Cumbum valley recently included in Periyar water-rate area.

(3) Higher rates than the ordinary Periyar rates were fixed owing to the need for limiting further irrigation and the very high value of water in this area.